

## **2019 BOARD BRIEFS:**

### **A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

#### **Board Action**

- Approved the amended consent agenda, which included an updated list of evidence- and research-based reading programs for state aid reimbursement.

#### **Updates on Current Initiatives and Annual Reports**

- Representatives from the Kansas State High School Activities Association provided the annual report of the organization, citing highlights in both school activities and athletics. Efforts to continually improve student safety and student leadership opportunities were discussed.
- An overview of the Kansas Seal of Biliteracy was given. A total of 406 certificates were awarded in 2018-19 to students demonstrating proficiency in English and another world language.
- Commissioner Randy Watson highlighted progress made on several of the state-level outcomes, particularly kindergarten readiness, individual plans of study and postsecondary completion.
- Recommendations from the Dyslexia Committee were presented for review. These encompassed pre-service teacher programs, professional learning, screening and evaluation processes for children, and evidence-based reading practices. Action is anticipated in November.
- Staff from Teacher Licensure and Accreditation reported on two limited apprentice programs as new sources to fill vacancies. Work to improve collection of vacancy data was also covered.
- Members of the E-Cigarette/Vaping Task Force led discussions on a Tobacco 21 draft model policy, resources available to schools, early addiction and cessation programs, and restrictions.
- Information was shared on Anti-Bullying Awareness Week and the latest work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying. The Task Force will bring recommendations to the State Board by December.
- Members received and affirmed the recommendation of Commissioner Watson to keep the current high school state assessments with no changes for school year 2020-21. The Board will continue to study the impact of having free access to both Pre-ACT and ACT and revisit the issue when more information/data is available.

#### **Reception Celebrates 50 Years**

Past and present State Board members celebrated 50 years of an elected board serving public education. Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers gave congratulatory remarks at the reception.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Nov. 12 and 13 in Topeka. Board members will engage in a working retreat on the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Kansas Health Institute to plan their legislative agenda.